

**INCLUSION IRELAND**

National Association for People with an Intellectual Disability

# **LOOKING BACK ON 2015**

## **EASY-TO-READ**



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### **Paddy Connolly (Inclusion Ireland CEO)**

My name is Paddy Connolly and I am the CEO of Inclusion Ireland.

It is a privilege to work at Inclusion Ireland and to work with persons with intellectual disabilities and their families every day.

We decided this year to produce our annual report in two parts – this easy-to-read summary of 2015, and a number of video diaries which you can see on our website.

The video diaries were produced by our self-advocacy Board sub-committee and I would like to thank them for that.

They have done the editing and recording and they interviewed all the participants.

It is important to Inclusion Ireland that information about our work is accessible to everybody.

I'd like to thank the Board for their support in 2015 and to thank the staff of Inclusion Ireland for all their work.

## Tom Healy (Inclusion Ireland Chairperson)



I am very happy to present this easy-to-read summary of our work in 2015. I have listed below some of my highlights for last year.

I have been advocating for people with an intellectual disability for a long time and I'm long enough around to know when good work is being done.

As I step down as Chairperson I am happy to say that I believe we are more focused on what we want to achieve and have really worked hard to put the person with a disability at the centre of everything we do.

Our approach going forward will be underpinned by our new Equality & Human Rights Statement.

We will continue working to ensure persons with a disability and their families and advocates are fully consulted by Government and Government agencies in planning for disability services and supports.

I'd like personally to thank our CEO Paddy Connolly for his leadership and support during my time as Chairperson.

The Chairpersons highlights.

### Connect Family Network

We worked with Down Syndrome Ireland and Irish Autism Action on the Connect Family Network.



This Network gets people with intellectual disabilities and family members more involved in the design and delivery of services.

### Support to board members

2 self-advocates are on the board of Inclusion Ireland and their names are Martin Rowan and Phil Davy.



This year we hired Catherine O'Leary to support Martin and Phil on the board.

### Plain English Award

We won a 'Plain English Award' from NALA for the booklet 'Sexual Assault-Support and Information'



### Election Manifesto

Before the election we produced a document called 'A Disability Manifesto for Equality and Human Rights' with the things we were looking for in the election.



## Families Section

### Connect Family Network



We are connecting parent and family disability support groups and helping them to share concerns, keep them informed and ensure that their voice is heard.



This year the Connect Family Network had meetings where we gave information on making decisions and support. We had these meetings in Dublin, Drogheda, Waterford, Limerick and Tullamore.

The Connect Family Network has a webpage on Inclusion Ireland's website showing a map of all the family groups.

### Family Forums



In 2015, we supported people who have a family member living in Áras Attracta in Mayo, Cregg House in Sligo, St Raphael's in Youghal and St Patrick's in Kilkenny.

We had family forums where people could meet each other and share information so family members are aware of decisions that may affect their family member.



## Changing Places Campaign

Inclusion Ireland is working on a Changing Places Ireland campaign.



It is about having fully accessible toilets in public places such as shopping centres, libraries and sport venues.



Each toilet includes: extra space, a height-adjustable adult-sized changing bench and a tracking hoist system.

### Ailis' story: Changing Places



Like all young women her age, Ailis loves to go out for lunch, shop and live her life in the community.

Ailis, needs a hoist to use the bathroom.



There is a Changing Places toilet in Dublin City Centre in Trinity College and this means that Ailis can spend the day in the city and shop or see the sights.

## Self-Advocacy

### Support to board members

2 self-advocates called Martin Rowan and Phil Davy are on the Board of Inclusion Ireland.



Martin and Phil spoke up to say they wanted support to take part.

Martin and Phil decided what good support would look like.

They wrote a job description.

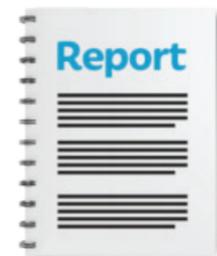
They interviewed people for the job and chose Catherine O'Leary to support them.



Now the information for board meetings is more accessible.



Catherine meets Martin and Phil before board meetings to make sure they understand what is going on.



Martin and Phil also sit on the self-advocacy sub-committee of the board and make sure both groups know about the work of the other.

## International Day of Persons with Disabilities



Inclusion Ireland's self-advocacy sub-committee of the board decided to make a video to show what 'inclusion' means.



In the video the self-advocates said that it was important to make a contribution to society, have freedom to make your own choices and that support should be of the person's choosing.



This video had almost 500 views on our YouTube channel and over 200 views on our website.



### Inclusion Europe Conference in Rome

Adrian Noonan is a member of Inclusion Ireland's self-advocacy sub-committee of the board.

Adrian represented Inclusion Ireland at the Inclusion Europe annual conference in Rome in May 2015.



Adrian made a presentation on resourcing self-advocacy at the event. Adrian believes it is important that self-advocacy is resourced and supported in Ireland and also in Europe.

## Aras Attracta Report Consultation Sessions



Áras Attracta is a residential home for people with disabilities in Co Mayo.

In 2014 the RTE Primetime programme showed that there was some abuse of people who live there.

After this the HSE set up the Aras Attracta Review Group to look into what had happened and to say how things could be better.



They made a document called: "Building Confidence Improving lives and delivering Change".



We worked on making this document 'Easy to Read'

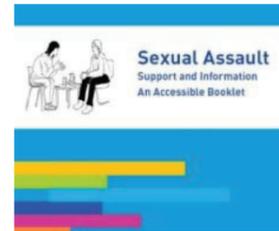
We hosted workshops so that people with intellectual disabilities could give feedback on the document.



Everybody who took part was paid and 136 people attended the workshop in 13 locations around the country.



An independent person wrote everything down and make sure the review group got all of the important information.



## Sexual Assault Booklet NALA Award

We wrote a booklet called "Sexual Assault - Support and Information"

A group called Cosc gave us the money to write and print the booklet.

The booklet is about sexual assault

This is a sensitive topic that people need to know about.

We had focus groups with self advocates to decide what information was important and make sure the information and images were appropriate and accessible.

3,000 people in Ireland wanted a copy of the booklet.

We won a National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) Plain English Award 2015 for the booklet.

Adrian, Aine, Fiona and Brian received the award.



## How we make change happen

### Research on complex needs

In 2015, we worked with people who were doing work called research. Research is when people look into the causes and effects of things.



There were researchers from University College Cork who looked at what it was like for the brothers and sisters of a person with a disability.



There were researchers from Trinity College Dublin who looked at how people with complex needs can be supported to live in their community.

### HIQA – The Distant Voice

Pauline Conroy and Maire Meagher looked at the first 50 reports that HIQA made.

They wrote a report for Inclusion Ireland called HIQA the Distant Voice.

HIQA are the group that look at standards in residential services and how they are doing.

The researchers found that only 11% of residents were asked about their communication needs.



### General Election Manifestos

Before the election we produced a document called 'A Disability Manifesto for Equality and Human Rights' with the things we were looking for in the election.

We asked persons with disabilities, parents and advocates for ideas about what we should ask the new government to do.

We wrote a document called 'A Disability Manifesto for Equality and Human Rights'.

In this report we talked about advocacy, lack of therapies, direct payments and education.

Inclusion Ireland also worked with other groups - Down Syndrome Ireland and the Center for Independent Living on another document called 'A Manifesto for Community Inclusion'.

In this report we walked about ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, accessibility and employment.





## Law in Ireland

### Assisted Decision-Making Capacity Act

Ireland brought in a new law called the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity Act) in December 2015.

This new law means that people can get support to help them make their own decisions.



The new law covers decisions around finances, medical care and personal care.

A new office called the Decision Support Service will be set up.

### Disability Hate Crime

Hate crime is about people getting hurt or abused by others because they are seen as different in some way such as being part of an ethnic group, being lesbian or gay or having a disability.



There is no law in Ireland on hate crime.

Last year the Gardai made changes to make sure that they can now record disability hate crime.

Inclusion Ireland is working with researchers that believe having laws about disability hate crime is important.



## Enquiries Submissions and Case Studies

### Enquiries

In 2015, Inclusion Ireland staff received more than 1,200 enquiries.

Enquiries on decision-making, personal finances and housing came up.

We provided one-to-one support for people to make complaints and appeals.



We helped people make complaints to the HSE, the Ombudsman, the Equality Tribunal and the courts.

### Reports

We made 10 reports to the Government and public bodies.



In these reports we wrote about education, advocacy services and congregated settings.



### Case Studies

These case studies are examples of the kind of enquiries that Inclusion Ireland received last year.



## Contract for Residential Services



Anne has an adult daughter who lives in a residential service.



Anne was given a contract to sign for her daughter.



Anne was very worried as it said the service reserved a right to remove her daughter from the service and that if her daughter did not sign it she may have to find somewhere else to live.

Inclusion Ireland advised Anne that one adult cannot sign a contract for another.



We also directed Anne to her local free legal advice clinic for more support.

## John's story: Hours in school



John is in primary school.

The school said he would have to go home at 12.30 each day.



John was missing out on more than 2 hours of schooling each day.



The school refused to allow John to be in school for a full day.

Inclusion Ireland advised John's mother that this was a suspension and could be appealed formally.



We advised her to talk with the school about it first.

The school agreed to allow John to access a full school day.

## Training



In 2015 Inclusion Ireland offered a lot of training to people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Some of the most popular training events included about intellectual disability, making a will, Assisted Decision-Making, financial planning, sexual relationships and the law, social inclusion and understanding money.

## Making a Will



People with intellectual disabilities who want to make a will sometimes have difficulty finding a solicitor.

We took part in a 'Making a Will' project alongside a solicitor firm called Mason Hayes & Curran.



The project was about supporting people with intellectual disabilities to understand legal information about making a will.

Solicitors received training on legal issues as well as issues relating to intellectual disabilities, communication and accessibility. A number of individuals were supported to access legal advice about making a will.

Some people went and made their will in a solicitor's office.



## My Money Project

This project involved focus groups around Ireland hearing about what people wanted to know about managing their own money.

The trainers included people with disabilities who had experience of managing their own money.

There were training workshops across Ireland and people heard about money.

They learned about what money is and why it is important.



They also heard about banking, making decisions about money and getting support around money.

## Post-School Options Training

The Post-School Options training looks at what happens to students after school.

Family members can be very worried about what happens after school.

People with an intellectual disability can find it difficult to get further education.

We give information on training, day services and education supports.



## Acknowledgements

Our work would not be possible without the support of many people. Thank you to our members, parent and family groups and self-advocacy groups.

**Thanks also to:** Pauline Conroy , Maire Meagher , Marie Treacy, Ursula Barry, Anne-Marie O’Sullivan BL , Fergal Crehan BL , Michael Lynn SC Denis Butler (Cronin & Company) , Sarah Gavra Boland, Damien Martin & Conor Murray (Hyperlink), Eilis Barry, BL Eithne Lynch and Rachel Power (PILA), Anne-Marie O’Sullivan, BL, Members of the National Platform of Self-Advocates, Hillary Waldron (Intern), Adrian Noonan

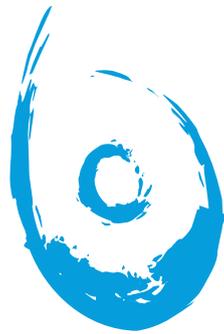
### Thank you to our funders:

Health Service Executive (HSE), Citizens Information Board (CIB), The Community Foundation for Ireland Pobal , JP McManus Foundation , Dormant Account – Pobal.

**Inclusion Ireland accounts:** All members have received a copy of the annual audited accounts. The accounts are available to anyone who wishes to have a copy, please contact us to request one.

### Collaborations and Contributions

Inclusion Ireland collaborated with or contributed to the work of the following organisations and groups in 2015.



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